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an circle, and the magnitudes will be determined photometrically. This catalog is intended to furnish a zone catalog of that region and also to answer for the same region in the *Durchmusterung*.

The *Durchmusterung* zone -52° to -62° is practically completed, and it is expected to begin the printing of the catalog about October 1, 1913.

It is expected to finish the original *Durchmusterung* plan by observing the region between -62° and -82° as soon as the zone -52° to -62° is completed.

The maps of the zone -22° to -42° will all have been republished about the end of the present year. The completion of the catalog for the zone -52° to -62° will make available the necessary data for the maps of -42° to -62° and these will be undertaken as quickly as possible. The remaining maps (-62 to the pole) will be completed as soon as the observations become available.

OBSERVATORIO NACIONAL ARGENTINO,
CÓRDOBA, July 12, 1913.

SETH CARLO CHANDLER.

By R. H. TUCKER.

One of the most brilliant minds in American astronomy passed away at the close of the month of December. For the greater part of his life, Dr. SETH CHANDLER had devoted his time and energy to the investigation of astronomical problems, without material support from any outside source, and without holding any scientific or university appointment. In the late sixties he had been connected with the Coast Survey, practically as a special assistant to Dr. B. A. GOULD; and in the early eighties he held an appointment at the Harvard College Observatory. During this last epoch he computed and distributed the greater part of the elements of comet orbits, with the resulting ephemerides, and kept up a service for the prompt circulation of astronomical news. The code for the transmission of astronomical telegrams, which he compiled

soon after, with RITCHIE, has only lately been practically superseded.

The pressure of his family affairs prevented his joining Dr. GOULD in 1869, for the expedition to the southern hemisphere, that was to result in the foundation of the Argentine National Observatory at Córdoba, and in such impressive contributions to astronomy. On the return of Dr. GOULD, sixteen years later, the early intimacy and scientific co-operation of the two astronomers were renewed, and the years that ensued, up to the date of GOULD's death, were probably CHANDLER's most happy and fruitful ones. The enthusiasm and zeal of the younger man were balanced and restrained by the judgment and wide experience of the elder, and it was a privilege to see the two minds in action, each responding to the stimulus of the other.

An immense amount of work was accomplished by CHANDLER in the investigation of the latitude variation, reducing and discussing old observations, and the establishment of the final accepted form of the variation is practically entirely due to his researches. He chose to attack the problem independently, without regard to previously accepted theory. Without testing for any definite period, he treated the existing observational material with the period as an unknown. The result gave the fourteen-month term, superimposed upon the annual term, and these satisfy the accepted movement of the pole, with very slight deviations. The outstanding deviations may be due to systematic errors of observation, like those involving a change in refractions, or to the existence of some other small term in the variation, like that known by KIMURAS' name, but these deviations are extremely small.

Investigation of the aberration, and of the fundamental constants of astronomy, came in as by-products in the steady grind upon the variation of latitude.

In variable-star discussions, Dr. CHANDLER was an authority of first rank, tho never as an observer. His work upon the subject had been admirably classified, and put in order, and every available source of information in regard to any particular star can be conveniently and quickly looked up in his library of variable stars.

After Dr. GOULD's death, CHANDLER became the editor of the *Astronomical Journal*, founded by GOULD in 1849, but suspended between 1861 and 1885. As associate editors, Professors ASPAH HALL and LEWIS BOSS were joined, in the early years. After 1908, Professor BOSS became principal editor, with CHANDLER and others as associates. But CHANDLER's health had been severely broken, mainly by the excessive and unrestrained zeal with which he worked in his most active periods, and the last few years have been practically spent in retirement, with little hope of rehabilitation.

He was sixty-seven years old, having been born and educated in Boston. He was an actuary in insurance for many years, and held important posts of private and corporate trust. He received the Watson medal of our National Academy of Sciences and the gold medal of the Royal Astronomical Society of England, as recognition of his notable contributions to astronomy.

JOHN ROBIE EASTMAN.

By R. H. TUCKER.

Another one of the coterie of astronomers that gave substantial reputation to the Naval Observatory at Washington died in September last. Professor J. R. EASTMAN had been retired, at the naval age limit of sixty-two years, in 1898, tho his promotion to the rank of rear admiral came some eight years later.

He was born at Andover in 1836 and was graduated from Dartmouth in 1862, the college that later gave him the degrees of M. S. and Ph. D. He obtained a position as assistant astronomer at the Naval Observatory soon after his graduation, and three years later was promoted to the rank of professor of mathematics in the U. S. Navy.

The staff of the observatory in those years included among its distinguished names those of NEWCOMB, HALL, HOLDEN, HARKNESS, FRISBY, SKINNER and PAUL. Of these Dr. HOLDEN is now at West Point, Professors FRISBY and SKINNER are retired, and Professor PAUL is at Annapolis.